

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DEATH OF VACLAV HAVEL,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH RE-
PUBLIC

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, history is often made by Generals and politicians; rarely has the course of history been forever altered by a playwright. We are saddened that we have lost Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, but we must remember that this man lived his life with courage and a fundamental sense for what was right. His was a life well-lived, which he used to change our world for the better no matter the personal cost.

Americans will never forget this man or the role he played in the peaceful dissolution of the Evil Empire and the unification of Europe and the expansion of NATO. The support of the American people for our Czech allies and their commitment to the U.S.-Czech alliance as well as a shared belief in the rights and dignity of man continues today. Havel's life is a testament to his observation that "words can prove mightier than ten military divisions." The thoughts of all Americans are with Havel's family and the Czech people. We are immeasurably better off for his life and his example.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NANCY
GOOD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a longtime constituent of mine who recently passed away. Nancy Good was a social and political activist whose career, which was focused on bettering the lives of others, spanned several decades and three continents. Nancy was especially committed to furthering the cause of civil rights, and was an enthusiastic advocate of racially integrated neighborhoods, a cause she worked on both in Washington, DC, and Denver. She died August 24th at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver after a brief illness at the age of 89.

After World War II, she worked in Germany to repatriate displaced persons for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and edited the agency newsletter. It was during this time that she met her husband, Robert C. Good, and together they opened a settlement house under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee in Frankfurt in 1947, work for which she was honored fifty years later by the German government.

Nancy moved to Denver with her family in 1953 and worked for the Social Science Foun-

dation at the University of Denver (D.U.). She worked with community groups to establish fair housing practices among Denver realtors. She was also very active with the ACLU during this time.

A long career detour took the Goods to Washington, DC, where Nancy worked for the Washington Planning and Housing Agency. Nancy organized Democracy in Action, which took groups of DC junior high school students to meet with Senators, Supreme Court Justices and members of the Kennedy administration to learn firsthand about the workings of the federal government. The Goods lived in France in 1959, and in 1965, her husband was appointed the first U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, where Nancy remained active with the Girl Guides and with hunger relief projects.

In 1971 the Goods moved back to Denver when Bob Good was appointed head of the Graduate School of International Studies at D.U. Nancy worked for Mayor Bill McNichols's Commission on Community Relations (working with John Simonet on police sensitivity training among other issues) and Commission on Aging (where she started the Wise Old Owls gift shop to sell crafts made by seniors). Her proudest accomplishment at this time was helping to start Denver's first Community Gardens project under the leadership of Min Yasui.

In 1976 the Goods moved to Granville, Ohio, when Bob Good became President of Denison University. At Denison, Nancy oversaw a three year renovation of a derelict Victorian building in the center of the campus, which became the Good's residence and the center of social and intellectual life of the university. Bob and Nancy returned to Denver in 1984.

Nancy was a proud longtime Democratic Party activist. She worked on election after election, bringing in cadres of volunteers to elect the Jerry Kopels, Pat Schroeders and Wellington Webbs of Denver. She was a member of the Downtown Democratic Forum, the Social Legislation Committee and the League of Women Voters, and spent her life fighting for positive social change in her community.

It may be for a more light-hearted institution, however, that she will be remembered by generations of Denver children. "Eggnog for Eggheads," a Christmas party, was given by Nancy for 40 consecutive years. The party eventually grew to become an all-day affair with a guest list of over 1,000 attendees including Mayors, Congresswomen and professors who mingled with Nancy's Park Hill neighbors. Kids built houses, castles and other architectural wonders from sugar cubes and frosting in the Goods' basement which were later donated to children in hospitals across the city. In honor of the popular gathering, Mayor Wellington Webb declared "Eggnog for Eggheads Day" in Denver on December 3rd 1996.

Nancy is greatly missed by friends and family and will be remembered most for her enthusiastic nature, zest for life, and commitment

to political and social change and for the great love she had for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND
JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630). The title of this bill is misleading at best. H.R. 3630 does not create jobs or relieve the struggles of the middle class. Instead, it drastically reduces federal benefits for the unemployed and slashes health care funding by over \$17 billion. Moreover, it contains highly partisan and controversial policy riders that would have no chance of becoming law if considered under regular order.

Let me be clear. Congress must extend the payroll tax cut and offset the extension responsibly. Federal unemployment benefits, in their current form, must be extended before the end of the year. We must prevent a 27.4 percent cut to Medicare physician payments that jeopardize seniors' access to necessary health services. Action is urgently needed to address these issues. However, the House Republican proposal before us today unjustly places the burden of paying for these fixes on those in our society who can least afford it: the unemployed, low-income families, and seniors.

In this bill, House Republicans cut the weeks of unemployment insurance by more than half: from 99 to 59 weeks. Over 43,000 out-of-work Minnesotans will lose unemployment insurance as a result of this change. This is economically counter-productive and morally wrong. This provision will do real harm to Minnesota families and undermine our fragile economic recovery. The result of this cut would be more foreclosures, more repossessions, more homelessness and more anguish for struggling mothers, fathers and children.

Remarkably, my Republican colleagues are heaping insult on this injury by inserting a provision to allow drug testing of applicants for unemployment insurance. Notably, this provision does not apply to the millions of Americans who receive federal funding through other programs and tax benefits. With this ridiculous provision, Republicans are telling millions of unemployed Americans they are untrustworthy and irresponsible. Republicans are choosing to waste taxpayer funds on a big-government drug testing program instead of providing much-needed support to families struggling with unemployment. I could not disagree more with the shameful priorities expressed through the inclusion of this provision.

H.R. 3630 also cuts more than \$17 billion in federal funding from hospitals and health providers. This cut will reduce reimbursements for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

outpatient services, cut payments for unpaid health care debts, shrink the prevention and public health fund, and impose an increase in Medicare Part B premiums for certain beneficiaries. These cuts threaten to restrict access of low-income Minnesotans and seniors to needed health care services.

The House Republican majority had other options for offsetting the costs of H.R. 3630. Among those options was a small and temporary increase on the amount of taxes paid by those Americans least affected by the Great Recession. House Democrats will attempt to improve H.R. 3630 today during floor debate by replacing cuts to health care and unemployment insurance with a 3.6 percent surcharge on incomes over \$1 million a year. At a time when income inequality in America is at an all-time high, this is a necessary step to restore economic fairness and opportunity. I will support this motion when it comes to a vote this afternoon.

This Democratic motion is also important because it includes language requiring Members of Congress to publicly disclose their personal trading activity in the stock market. Increasing transparency to prevent Members of Congress from inappropriately profiting from insider knowledge is a common-sense reform that should be immediately enacted. If these improvements to H. R. 3630 are not included, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the legislation.

This bill is likely to be a missed opportunity for true compromise. It does important things, such as extending the payroll tax cut for 160 million Americans and preventing a 27.4 percent cut to Minnesota physician reimbursements with a two-year fix. In addition, it extends the physician work geographic adjustment, which ensures Minnesota providers are not additionally penalized by the Medicare payment system. Yet, the decision to pay for these measures with cuts to seniors, low-income families and unemployed Americans was entirely avoidable and thus, completely unacceptable.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in the FY12 NDAA a drafting error was uncovered in section 1045.

Subsection (c) of section 1045 reads "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in subsection b" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

This provision should have read, "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in paragraph 2" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

As the Joint Statement of Managers to the Conference Report makes clear:

Finally, the conference agreement would, in any year in which the President makes a

proposal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the active or inactive stockpiles of the United States to a level that is lower than the level on the date of enactment of this Act, require the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command to conduct a net assessment of the current and proposed nuclear forces of the United States and of other countries to determine whether the proposed U.S. nuclear forces would be capable of meeting U.S. objectives of nuclear deterrence, extended deterrence, assurance of allies, and defense. The Secretary of Defense would be required to submit the Commander's unaltered net assessment, together with any explanatory views of the Secretary, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In any such year, the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration would also be required to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report describing the current capacities of the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure to respond to strategic developments or technical problems in the nuclear weapons stockpile.

While Congress addresses this, and any other technical corrections needed in the bill, I urge STRATCOM and the Administrator of the NNSA to construe this legislation per the clear intent.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This legislation, which provides \$662 billion in funding for fiscal year 2012, is not perfect but I will vote in favor of it for three principal reasons. First, it provides for troop and equipment readiness. Second, it provides much needed help and support for military families. Third, it authorizes critical investments in technology to ensure that the United States is prepared to defend against emerging threats now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is of utmost importance that our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world have the equipment, resources, authorities, training, and time needed to successfully complete their missions and return home. This bill does that.

H.R. 1540 also provides their families with the resources and support they need and deserve. Specifically, the bill provides for enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, retention and accession pay for critical skills, and hazardous duty pay. As my colleagues across both aisles would agree, it is our responsibility to ensure that our troops that have sacrificed for us receive the resources they need for success and the benefits they deserve.

Further, the bill recognizes the importance of investing in future capability and technology to meet emerging challenges on the battlefield of today and in the future. We live in an age in which the security challenges facing our nation are ever-evolving and increasing in technological sophistication and complexity. We must take the necessary steps to ensure that

the United States stays in the forefront of technological advances and is equipped with vigorous capabilities in order to be able to successfully detect, deter, and defeat terrorist plots, cyber attacks, and other emerging threats. The bill before us will help us meet these challenges.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions included in this legislation which I support:

I. TROOP AND EQUIPMENT READINESS

1. Provides \$22.8 billion for the training of all active-duty and reserve forces to increase readiness;
2. Authorizes \$396.8 million for C-17 modernization;
3. Provides \$6.3 billion to fund Navy ship and aircraft depot maintenance;
4. Provides \$4.5 billion for Army and Marine Corps equipment reset and depot maintenance;
5. Provides \$7.7 billion for Air Force weapon system sustainment;
6. Allocates just under \$1 billion to support the Army's planned return to full-spectrum training; and
7. Provides \$13 billion for Military Construction, base realignment and closures, and military family housing.

II. HELP FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

1. Provides a 1.6 percent military pay raise
2. Ensures fair TRICARE premiums

III. INVESTING IN FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

1. Extends important budget authorities to allow defense laboratories to recruit and retain the brightest scientists;
2. Expands developmental test and evaluation management for major defense acquisition programs;
3. Directs an assessment of mechanisms to employ non-U.S. citizens with critical scientific and technical skills; and
4. Expands pilot program for the integration of technology protection features during research and development to include contractor cost-sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support the provisions in the bill regarding the treatment of detainees suspected of terrorism. I believe they are decidedly unhelpful and thus agree with the administration and those distinguished legal scholars who assert that mandatory military custody is "undue and dangerous," and that these provisions would "severely and recklessly undermine" our Nation's counterterrorism efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support the NDAA for FY 2012 because it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation safe and enhances our defense infrastructure, along with taking care of our military personnel, and authorizing continued funding for the C-17 air transport.

REMEMBERING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Poland caucus, to remember the declaration of martial law in Poland 30 years ago